

WI-413  
United States Post Office  
Salisbury  
Public

1924, 1936

The even coloration and consistent brickwork across the south wall of Salisbury's post office belie the fact that this important city building was erected in two distinct stages. Erected in 1924-25 as a single story, five-bay post office, the original building program is commemorated by a stone date plaque set in the south wall east of the main entrance. The stone is inscribed, "A. W. Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury, James A. Wetmore, Acting Supervising Architect." Wetmore's design for the post office followed the prevailing taste in public architecture of the time with its distinct neoclassical form and architectural decoration. The center three bays, emphasized by a slight projection in the wall, by defined by an arched center entrance filled with a large fanlight transom and a neoclassical surround that framed the double door entrance. Arched recesses to each side were pierced by large twelve-over-twelve sash windows. Also accenting the wall are four, small circular masonry medallions. In 1934-35 the interior of the post office was enriched with painted murals financed by the Work Projects Administration. The murals depict romanticized views of Colonial America. Within the following year, the single story post office was more than doubled in size with a second floor, additional bays to each side, and a larger rear wing. Fixed in the southeast corner of the addition is another stone date plaque inscribed, "Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury, James A. Farley, Postmaster General, Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect and Neal A. Melick, Supervising Engineer." The neoclassical style of the

1924 post office determined the nature of the addition. Construction of the addition was so successful in its implementation that little architectural difference is discernable between the two sections.

## MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: United States Post Office

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-413

### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s):     Architecture
  
2. Geographic Orientation:       Eastern Shore
  
3. Chronological/Development Period(s):  
                                  Industrial/Urban Dominance  
                                  1870-1930  
                                  Modern Period  
                                  1930-Present
  
4. Resource Type(s):           Post Office

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic United States Post Office

and/or common Maude R. Toulson Federal Building

## 2. Location

street & number East Main Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Salisbury ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. WI-413

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The United States Post Office, also known as the Maude R. Toulson Federal Building, is located on the northwest corner of East Main and Baptist streets in the center of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, tee-shaped brick post office faces south.

Built in stages during the 1920s and 1930s, the initial post office was a single-story, five-bay by four-bay Flemish bond brick structure erected in 1924-25. A date plaque documenting its construction is fixed in the south wall east of the main entrance. The stone is inscribed, "A. W. Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury, James A. Wetmore, Acting Supervising Architect." A second stone, fixed in the southeast corner of the post office, documents the 1936 addition, which included a second floor and as well as an additional two bays on each end of the original five-bay building. Built at the same time was a two-story rear wing that gave the building its current T shape. The second date stone is inscribed, "Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury; James A. Farley, Postmaster General; Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect and Neal A. Melick, Supervising Engineer." The building rests on an elevated foundation of five-course common bond, while the walls are laid in Flemish or English bond. The flat roof is disguised by a parapet wall. The brick walls are accented with stone trimmings.

The south (main) facade is a nine-bay elevation with a center entrance and flanking twelve-over-twelve sash windows. The center three-bay section, set out the width of approximately a foot from the plane of the end bays, is also enhanced by recessed arched brickwork that frames the center entrance and the two flanking windows. The front double-door entrance, reached by an elevated double staircase with iron railings, is framed by fluted Doric columns and a decorated frieze below an arched fanlight. Fixed between each of the arched recesses is a round stone medallion featuring a neoclassical web pattern decoration. Twelve-over-twelve sash windows are framed by molded wood surrounds and masonry sills. Stretching across the wall surface above the first floor windows is a decorated stone beltcourse. The second floor is lighted by nine evenly spaced eight-over-twelve sash windows. Above the second floor windows is a bold modillion block stone cornice. Centered within the frieze is the inscription, "United States Post Office." Fixed atop the cornice is a brick parapet wall featuring baluster panels above each of the nine bays. The parapet wall has a masonry cap.

The west side of the main block is four bays across with a side entrance located in the southwest bay. Reached by a set of masonry steps with iron railings, the double-door entrance is framed by a neoclassical wooden surround including pilasters, frieze, and pediment. The modern metal and glass double doors are topped by a five-light transom. Fluted pilasters rise to a decorated frieze with sunburst medallions enriching the end blocks and vertical fluting marking the frieze in between. The pediment is enclosed and trimmed with bed and crown moldings.

(Continued)

## 8. Significance

Survey No. WI-413

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

1924 Bldg. James A. Wetmore, arch.

Specific dates	1924, 1936	Builder/Architect	1936 Add. Louis A. Simon, arch.
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check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or  
Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G  
Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The even coloration and consistent brickwork across the south wall of Salisbury's post office belie the fact that this important city building was erected in two distinct stages. Erected in 1924-25 as a single story, five-bay post office, the original building program is commemorated by a stone date plaque set in the south wall east of the main entrance. The stone is inscribed, "A. W. Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury, James A. Wetmore, Acting Supervising Architect." Wetmore's design for the post office followed the prevailing taste in public architecture of the time with its distinct neoclassical form and architectural decoration. The center three bays, emphasized by a slight projection in the wall, by defined by an arched center entrance filled with a large fanlight transom and a neoclassical surround that framed the double door entrance. Arched recesses to each side were pierced by large twelve-over-twelve sash windows. Also accenting the wall are four, small circular masonry medallions. In 1934-35 the interior of the post office was enriched with painted murals financed by the Work Projects Administration. The murals depict romanticized views of Colonial America. Within the following year, the single story post office was more than doubled in size with a second floor, additional bays to each side, and a larger rear wing. Fixed in the southeast corner of the addition is another stone date plaque inscribed, "Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury, James A. Farley, Postmaster General, Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect and Neal A. Melick, Supervising Engineer." The neoclassical style of the 1924 post office determined the nature of the addition. Construction of the addition was so successful in its implementation that little architectural difference is discernable between the two sections.

Survey No. WI-413

## PS-2746

7.1 DESCRIPTION (Continued)  
United States Post Office, WI-413  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland

The adjacent bays are filled with twelve-over-twelve sash windows framed by molded wood surrounds. Stretching across the wall above the first floor windows at the height of the second floor window sills is the stone decorated stone beltcourse. The second floor is lighted by four evenly spaced eight-over-twelve sash windows. Defining the top of the wall is the stone modillion block cornice, above which rises the brick parapet pierced by balustered panels and topped by a masonry cap. The west elevation of the rear wing, which is recessed approximately fifteen feet from the corner of the main block, is five bays across with a loading platform sheltering the first floor freight doors. This wall is actually defined by three levels of doors and windows, two of which are below the stone beltcourse. The third level is lighted by six-over-six sash windows. Finishing the top of the wall is the stone cornice and parapet wall pierced by balustered panels.

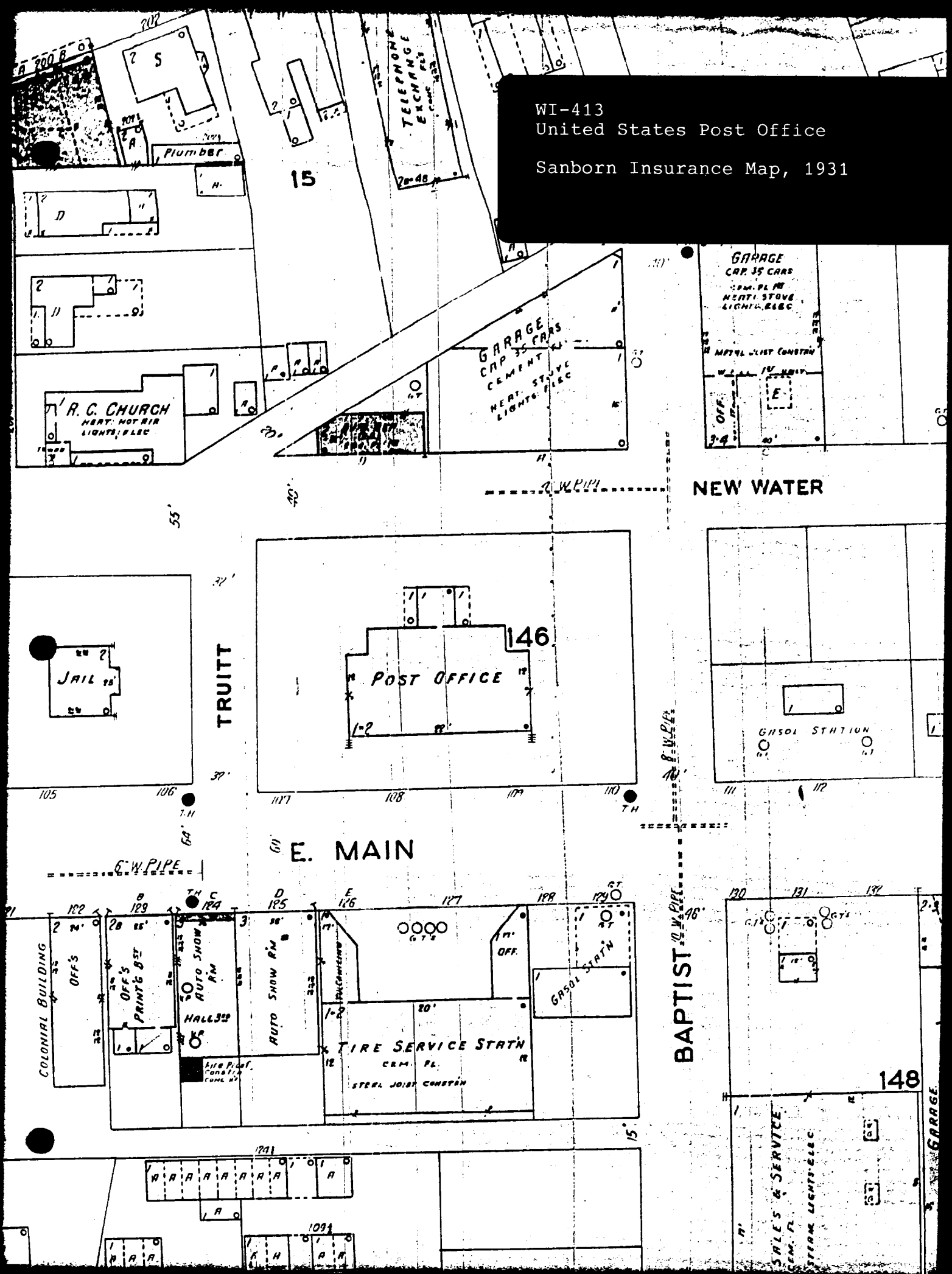
The north (rear) wall of the wing is six bays across, and it is defined by an asymmetrical fenestration of various sized windows and doors. The wall is divided visually by the stone beltcourse and modillion block cornice. The parapet is pierced by the rectangular baluster panels and the wall is consisted covered by the masonry cap.

Fixed in the northeast corner of the T-shaped post office is a two story metal fire escape. The northeast elevations of the post office are detailed in the same manner as the other walls.

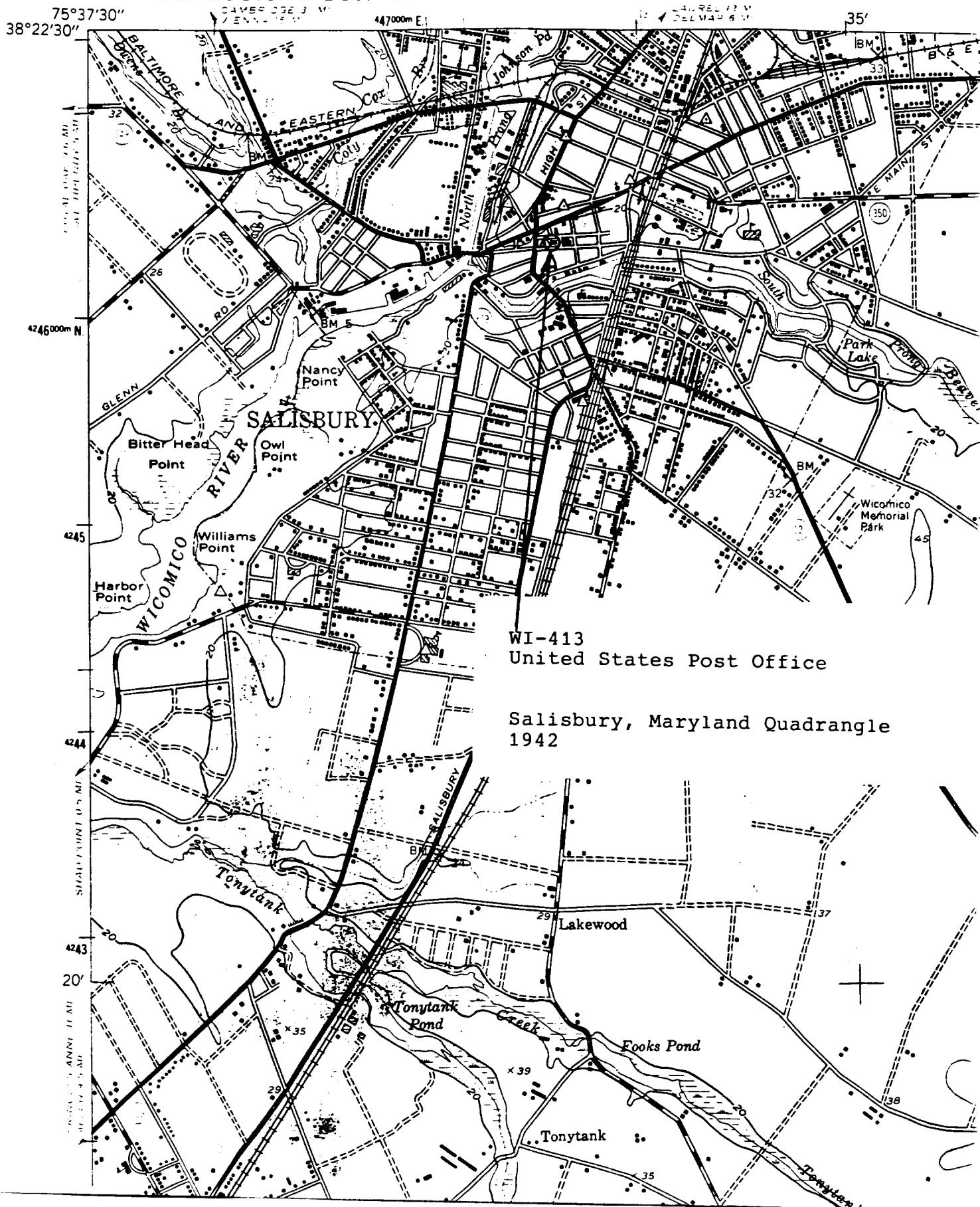
The interior retains some of its 1930s woodwork. The first floor has a T-shaped hall with the staircase rising against the south wall west of the front entrance. A terrazzo floor is found throughout the first floor. The plaster walls above the wall boxes in the front hall are painted with murals depicting romantic scenes of Colonial America, which were painted in the original building in 1934-35 as a Work Projects Administration (WPA) activity.



WI-413  
United States Post Office  
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1931



75°37'30"  
38°22'30"





W1. 4/2

Upper Series Part One

SALISBURY, WILMINGTON, DE.

Sound & Light

2/22, Fair Town and Philadelphia

W1. 4/22, W1. 4/22, W1. 4/22

1 of 4













HENRY MORGENTHAU JR  
SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

JAMES A FARLEY  
POSTMASTER GENERAL

LOUIS A SIMON  
SUPERVISING ARCHITECT

NEAL A MILLICK  
SUPERVISING ENGINEER

1936

